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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS-93**

**McLellan Family Papers
Inclusive dates: 1831-1901
Bulk dates: 1849-1863**

by
Tracy Lamaestra
June 2012

Shelf feet: .5 linear feet
Number of boxes: 1
Accession 90.24

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Abstract

McLellan Family

Papers, 1831-1901 (Bulk dates: 1849-1863)

1 box, (.5 Shelf feet)

Ship owners, captains and managers of vessels, Portland, Maine.

Nineteenth-century papers relating to the ship *George Turner* and other vessels owned, commanded or managed by the McLellans of Portland, Maine. Other vessels include the *Argo* (Bark), *City of New York* (Steamer), *Henrietta* (Brig), *Ivy Belle* (Schooner), *Mary Ann* (Brig), *Portland* (Ship) and *William Woodbury* (Ship). Included are insurance papers, correspondence, account summaries, general accounts, charter parties, freight and cargo documents, crew wages accounts, articles of agreement, protests, legal documents and miscellaneous. There is also a small amount of material non-maritime related. The McLellan family papers are organized as follows: Series I. Vessel Papers, Series II. Personal Papers and Series III. Miscellaneous papers.

Donated by Charles E. Burden, February 22, 1990.

MS-93. Accession No. 90.24.

Finding aid available in repository; folder-level control and item-level control.

Added entries—persons:

Browne, Charles Farrar

Caleb, John O., *Captain*

McLellan, Arthur

McLellan, Jacob, *Captain*

McLellan, Seth B., *Captain*

Ward, Artemus

Whitman, Margaret P. [McLellan]

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Argo (Bark)

City of New York (Steamer)

George Turner (Ship)

Henrietta (Brig)

Ivy Belle (Schooner)

Mary Ann (Brig)

Portland (Ship)

William Woodbury (Ship)

Added entries—key terms:

Accounts

Charter-parties

Crew lists

Deeds

Freight and freightage

Insurance, marine

Invoices

Legal documents

Marine protests
Merchant seamen
Seafaring
Seamanship
Ship Captains
Wages

Acquisition

The McLellan family papers were donated to the Maine Maritime Museum by Charles E. Burden on February 22, 1990, accession No. 90.24.

Provenance

Charles E. Burden purchased the McLellan family papers from F. O. Baily Antiques in Portland, Maine.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the study or use of these materials.

Physical Condition

Many of the papers have surface dirt. Some manuscripts are discolored and stained. Other papers have creases with significant or minor tears on edges and fold lines. These were repaired with thin, transparent document repair tape. Those with heavier crease lines, folds or dog ears were flattened with a tacking iron at low to medium heat. Some of the records are brittle and should be handled with care. Fragile and brittle documents were sleeved in Melinex or archival Mylar. Several consul documents and/or articles of agreements are adhered atop of the larger articles of agreements by adhesive or seals. Some of these same type of documents are also tied together by ribbon tape. The large articles of agreement were left folded due to their size. Protests are secured together by ribbon tape as well.

Biographical Notes

Captain Jacob McLellan (1807-1888)

Captain Jacob McLellan was born to William and Ann Choate Burnham on November 4, 1807 in Portland, Maine. He married Sally Motley Weeks in 1832; she died on August 5, 1833 in Portland at the age of 26. Captain Jacob McLellan later married Mary J. Isley on April 12, 1837 in Portland. They had children Henry J., Elizabeth R., E. S. Erving, Anna C., R. Talbot and

William. They lived at 31 Danforth Street in 1846, 38 Danforth Street in 1852 and 94 Danforth Street in 1877 at Portland, Maine.

Captain Jacob McLellan was a shipmaster by 1834. At this time, he worked for William McLellan, a shipmaster who lived on the corner of Danforth and High. Captain Jacob McLellan commanded the *Argo* (Bark), *Henrietta* (Brig), *Attica* (Bark), *Grecian* (Ship), *George Turner* (Ship) and the *Portland* (Ship). He was co-owner of the *George Turner* (Ship) with William Woodbury, Jacob McLellan, Henry Weeks and Oliver Silsby. Captain Jacob McLellan was also a shipping agent for the *George Turner* (Ship). Moreover, he was a merchant and the president of the Merchant's Bank at 34 Exchange Street.

Captain Jacob McLellan died on April 10, 1888 of old age in Portland.

References

1. <http://searchancestry.com>. On-line source, 22 June 2012 and 25 June 2012.

Captain Seth B. McLellan (abt. 1814/15-1891)

Captain Seth B. McLellan, brother of Jacob McLellan, was born about 1814 or 1815. He married Harriet Ellen Herrick on July 8, 1863 in Portland, Maine. They had child Harriet H. McLellan. He was a mariner in 1847 and then a shipmaster by 1852. They lived at 15 High Street in Portland in 1852. The family also resided at 38 Danforth Street in 1858. Moreover, they lived in Auburn, Maine in 1870. He was co-owner of the *George Turner* (Ship) with William Woodbury, Jacob McLellan, Henry Weeks and Oliver Silsby. He was also a shipping agent for the *George Turner* (Ship) in 1856 and 1860. Furthermore, he was shipmaster of the *George Turner* (Ship), *Mary Ann* (Brig) and the *William Woodbury* (Ship). In 1881, he was retired as a shipmaster. Captain Seth B. McLellan died on December 29, 1891 in Matanzas of pneumonia.

References

1. *Bath Daily Times*. 9 October 1869.
2. <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com>. On-line source. 22 June 2012.
3. <http://search.ancestry.com>. On-line source. 22 June 2012 and 25 June 2012.

Scope and Content Notes

The McLellan family papers are primarily vessel documents for the *Argo* (Bark), *City of New York* (Steamer), the *George Turner* (Ship), the *Henrietta* (Brig), the *Ivy Belle* (Schooner), the *Mary Ann* (Brig), *Portland* (Ship) and the *William Woodbury* (Ship). The majority of the papers date 1849 to 1862. Most of these vessels were owned, mastered or managed by the McLellans of Portland, Maine. This includes Jacob McLellan and his brothers, Seth B. McLellan and William McLellan. The majority of the vessel papers are for the ship *George Turner* which Captains Jacob McLellan, Seth B. McLellan and Joseph Bailey Woodbury mastered. Many of the vessel papers list McLellan as master without specifying first name. Collection contents include insurance papers, correspondence, freight and cargo, accounts crew wages accounts, charter parties, articles of agreement, protests and legal papers.

The protests are for the *George Turner* (Ship) damage and investigation with Captain Seth B. McLellan as master in April 1852 in addition to weather damage with Captain John O. Caleb as master in 1857. There are legal documents for the *George Turner* (Ship). These include vessel detention in 1850, United States versus the *George Turner* (Ship) for libel in 1851 and a cargo lien in 1857. A consul document captures the desertion of Robert Mackellen a seaman from the *Argo* (Bark) in 1831 at Havana. There is also a detailed freight list for the *George Turner* (Ship) which list consignees and accompanying marks.

The personal papers in this collection include a partial letter (pages 1-4 missing) written by George W. McLellan to an unknown person regarding political office and seven quitclaim/property deeds. Margaret P. Whitman, daughter of Arthur McLellan is listed on five of the deed.

Miscellaneous papers include a letter dated November 25, 1893 from C. W. Coe to Charles Orr, a librarian at the Case Library in Cleveland, Ohio. Coe is writing in response to Mr. Orr's request about his recollections of Artemus Ward (Charles Farrar Browne). Charles Farrar Browne, better known as Artemus Ward, was a United States Humorist born in Waterford, Maine in 1834. Charles Farrar Brown, a.k.a. Artemus Ward, was said to have inspired Mark Twain when Ward performed in Virginia City, Nevada. We cannot find a connection between the McLellan family and Mr. Coe so it is unknown how this unusual letter found it's way in the McLellan papers.

Lastly, one newspaper article about the 75th anniversary of the Stone Meeting House of the First Parish Church in Portland, Maine dated 1901. Arthur McLellan is mentioned in the article as one of the financial supporters.

Processing Notes

The McLellan family papers came folded, mixed and bundled together without any semblance of order in an archival box. Papers initially bundled together by the creator were kept together to preserve original order and placed in dividers within appropriate folders. The arrangement of the vessel papers follow standardized sequence to simplify access. The papers are grouped into two series: Series I. Vessel Papers, Series II. Personal Papers and Series III. Miscellaneous papers.

Organization of Series

Series I. Vessel Papers (1827-1882)

Subseries Ia. *George Turner* (Ship): Papers includes correspondence, voyage accounts, charter party contracts, freight and cargo documents, protests and legal documents.

Subseries Ib. Other vessel papers: Vessel papers for the *Argo* (Bark), *City of New York* (Steamer), *Henrietta* (Brig), *Ivy Belle* (Schooner), *Mary Ann* (Brig), *Portland* (Ship) and *William Woodbury* (Ship). These documents are insurance papers, correspondence, various accounts, bill of lading, crew wages, charter parties and articles of agreement.

Series II. Personal Papers (n.d., 1837-1855): Include one partial letter written by G. W. McLellan (n.d) and seven quit claim/property deeds.

Series III. Miscellaneous papers (1893, 1901): Letter referencing Artemus Ward (Charles Farrar Browne), United States humorist born in Waterford, Maine and one newspaper article about the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Stone Meeting House of the First Parish Church in Portland, Maine.

MS-93 MCLELLAN FAMILY PAPERS
Container List

Box# Folder#

Series I. Vessel Papers

Subseries Ia. *George Turner* (Ship)

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Accounts, summaries |
| 1 | Capt. McLellan, 1850 |
| 2 | Capt. Woodbury, 1850 |
| 3 | Accounts, general, France, n.d. |
| 4 | Antwerp, March 1849 |
| 5 | Quebec to London, June-Aug. 1850 |
| 6 | London to Nassau, Bahamas, Aug. 1851-May 1852 |
| 7 | Boston, July-Dec. 1852 & 1858 |
| 8 | Jamaica to London, Aug.-Sept. 1858 |
| 9 | Tralee (IRE), August 1863 |
| 10 | Charter parties, 1850-1861 |
| 11 | Freight and cargo, 1850-1860 |
| | Accounts, crew |
| 12 | Wages, n.d., 1853 |
| 13 | Articles of Agreement, 1849-1856 |
| 14 | 1858-1861 |
| | Protests |
| 15 | Protest Abstract with survey, Boston to Havana (accident, loss of cargo), April 1852 |
| 16 | Protest Abstract and survey of bills paid, Cardiff to Mobile, weather damage, January-April 1857 |
| 17 | Legal documents, 1850-52, 1857 |

Subseries Ib. Other vessel papers

- | | |
|----|---|
| | <i>Argo</i> (Bark)—Capt. William McLellan |
| 18 | Insurance, 1831 |

- 19 Consul document—Havana, desertion of Robert Mackellan, crewman,
January 1831
- 20 *City of New York* (Steamer), bills of lading, 1853
- 21 *Henrietta* (Brig), bills of lading, Capt. McLellan, 1836
- 22 *Ivy Belle* (Schooner), Capt. W. G. Lord, bills of lading, 1882
- 23 *Mary Ann* (Brig), Capt. [Jacob?] McLellan, accounts, general, France, 1827
Portland (Ship)
- 24 Receipts, Graving docks, London May 1854 and Declaration, Rio de
Janiero 1862
- 25 Articles of agreement, Capt. Brazier, London to Calcutta, February 1854
- 26 Underwriter's survey, Capt. Leavitt, 1859
William Woodbury (Ship) Capt. McLellan
- 27 Receipt, Ballast Office, London, Sept. 1861
- 28 Articles of agreement 1857, 1869, Capt. Seth B. McLellan

Series II. Personal Papers

- 29 Correspondence, G. W. McLellan, n.d.
- 30 Deeds:
 - Levi Whitman to Margaret P. [McLellan] Whitman, 1837
 - Levi Cutter to Ephraim Johnson, 1840
 - Josiah and Margaret P. Whitman to Rufus Emerson, 1845
 - Levi and Ruth Whitman to Margaret P. Whitman, 1848
 - Charles Whitman to Margaret P. Whitman, 1848
 - William G. Kimball to Henry Ilsley, 1852
 - Frederick Forsaith to Margaret P. Whitman, 1855

Series III. Miscellaneous papers

- 31 Letter between C. W. Coe and Charles Orr, Case Library, Cleveland, 1893
- 32 Miscellaneous (newspaper clippings), 1901